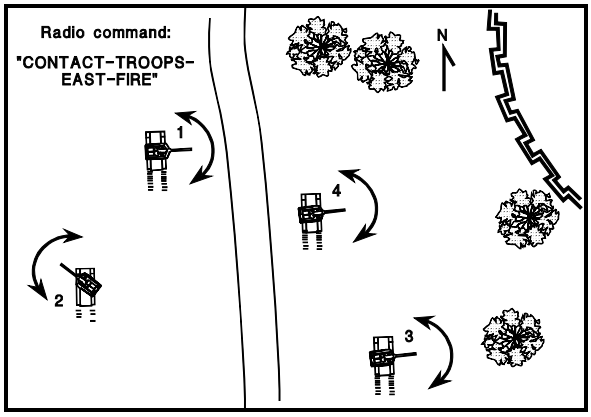
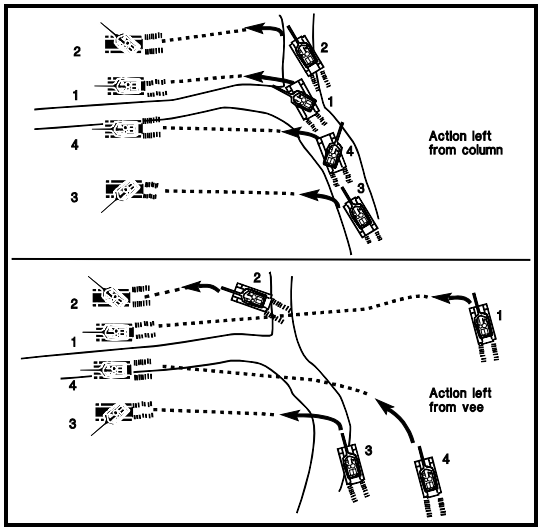
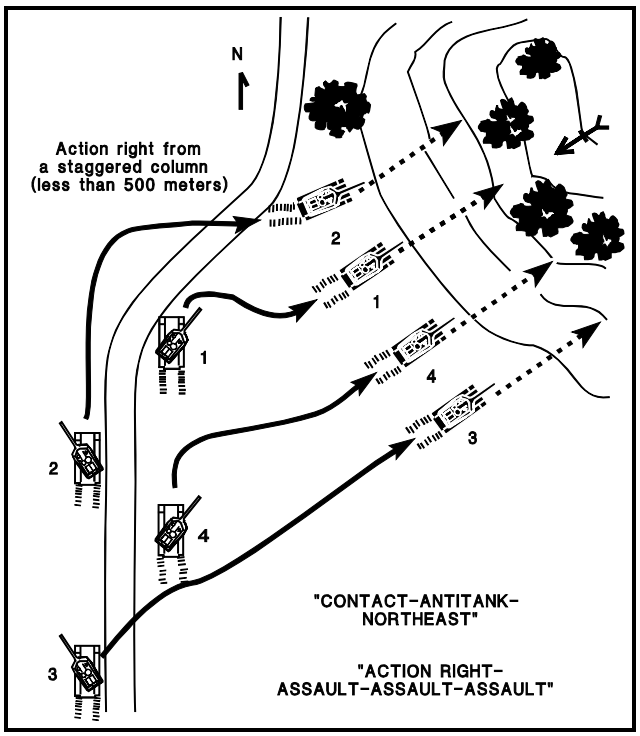


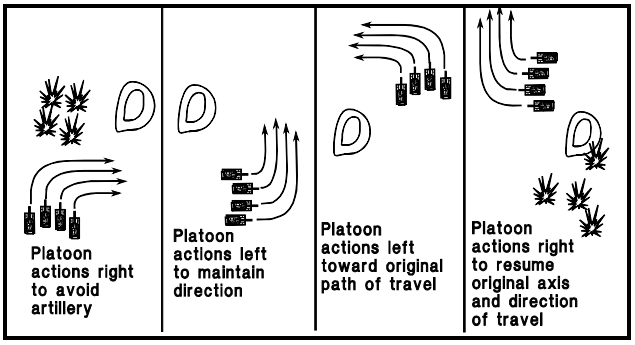
Contact drill (battle drill 2).



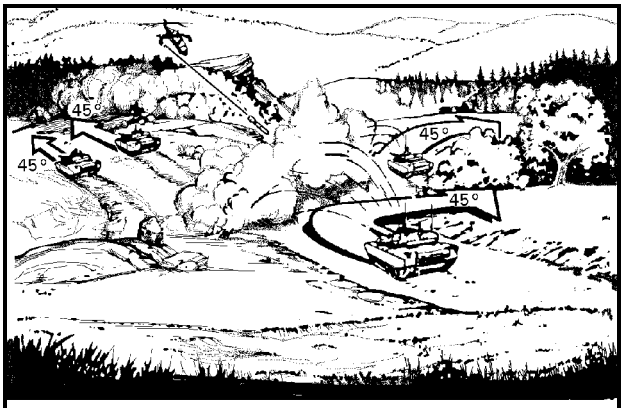
Action drill without enemy contact (battle drill 3).



Action drill with enemy contact (battle drill 3).



React to indirect fire drill (battle drill 4).



React to air attack drill (battle drill 5).

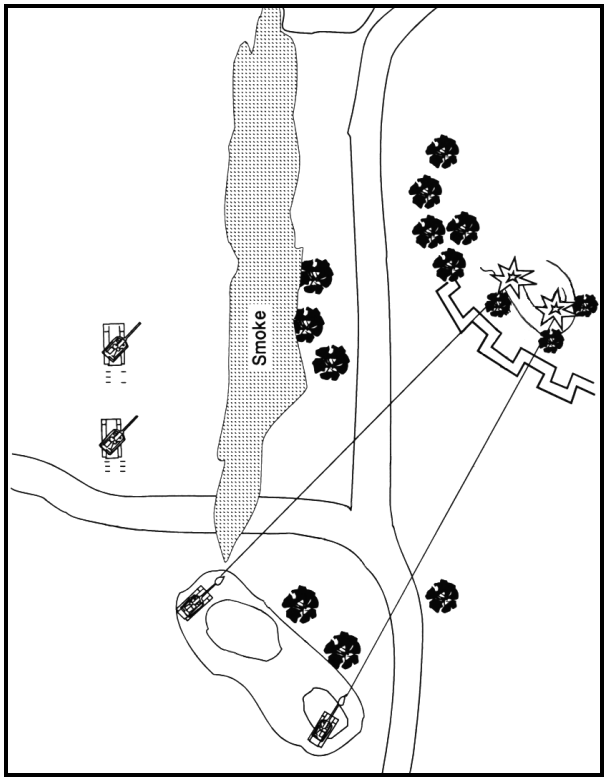
PLATOON TACTICAL TASKS

During offensive operations, the commander may direct the platoon to execute one of the following tactical tasks. Refer to FM 3-20.15 for detailed procedures.

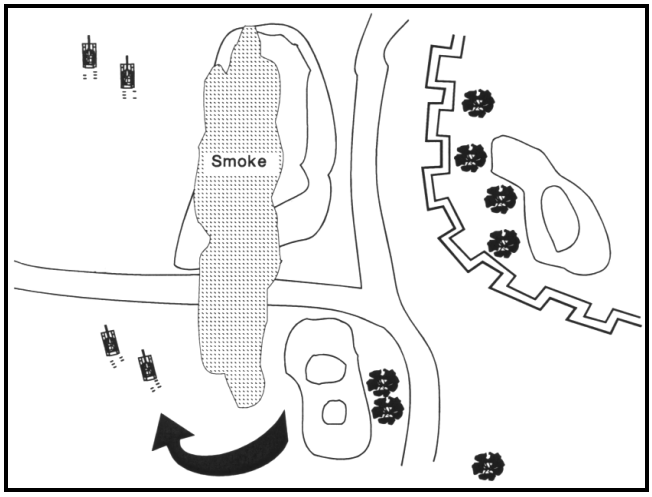
Bypass

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in bypassing an enemy element or obstacle. The bypass operation is shown in illustrations on the following pages.

STEP	ACTION – Conduct a bypass
1	Based on analysis of METT-TC factors, Tank 2 conducts reconnaissance to locate a bypass route if one is not designated by the commander.
2	Bravo section occupies a hasty BP or SBF position, establishes sectors of fire, and reports “SET” to platoon leader.
3	Alpha section conducts tactical movement along the bypass route. (**NOTE:** The platoon may have to execute a contact drill during the bypass.)
4	Bravo section calls for indirect fires/mortar smoke to mask the bypass.
5	Alpha section reports movement status to Bravo section.
6	Bravo section lifts/shifts indirect fires/smoke after Alpha section clears the bypass route and occupies an SBF position.
7	Bravo section disengages and displaces to rejoin Alpha section.
8	Platoon leader/PSG sends SITREP (digital or voice) to the commander.



Bypass (part 1).



Bypass (part 2).

Support a bypass

The following table lists steps the platoon takes to support the bypass operation of another unit.

STEP	ACTION – Support a bypass
1	Platoon occupies hasty BPs or SBF positions. TCs report "SET" to platoon leader.
2	Platoon leader establishes sectors of fire, fire control pattern, primary/alternate firing positions (with routes in and out), and displacement criteria.
3	Platoon leader maintains communications with lead and trail elements of the bypass unit to monitor movement status.
4	Platoon leader lifts/shifts indirect fires/smoke as necessary after trail element has cleared the bypass route.
5	TCs send SITREPs (digital or voice) to platoon leader.
6	Platoon leader sends SITREP (digital or voice) to the commander.

Reconnaissance by fire

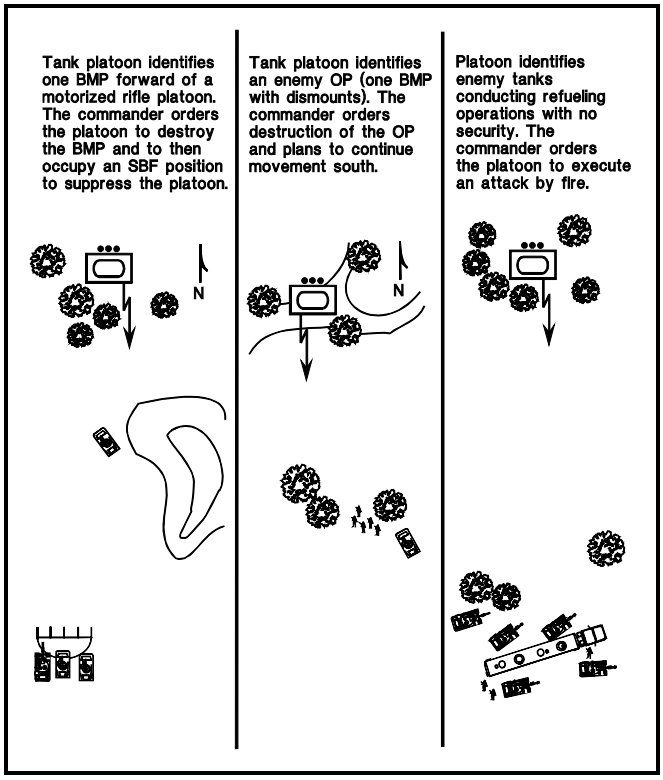
The following table lists steps the platoon takes in executing the reconnaissance by fire.

STEP	ACTION – Reconnaissance by fire
1	Based on METT-TC factors, recommend a reconnaissance by fire position or occupy position as designated by the commander.
2	Platoon leader identifies suspected enemy locations and designates them as platoon TRPs.
3	Occupy an overwatch position.
4	Employ indirect fire, if available.
5	If indirect fire is not available or did not force the enemy to maneuver, fire short bursts of caliber .50 (turret down) and/or coax (hull down) machine gun rounds and/or main gun rounds.
6	Use the observed fire technique (Tanks 2 and 3 fire; Tanks 1 and 4 observe) to destroy any enemy elements forced to maneuver from the position.
7	Platoon leader announces "CEASE FIRE" after the enemy has been destroyed or if no enemy is observed.
8	TCs send SITREPs (digital or voice) to platoon leader/PSG.
9	Platoon leader sends a SITREP (digital or voice) to the commander as necessary.
10	Continue the mission IAW commander’s guidance, OPORD/FRAGO, or unit SOP.

Destroy an inferior force

The following table lists steps the platoon takes to destroy an inferior enemy force. This operation is shown in the illustration on the following page.

STEP	ACTION – Destroy an inferior force
1	Platoon leader issues the FRAGO, designating the following as required: • A section in contact. • TRPs, sectors of fire, and covered and concealed routes.
2	Platoon leader/PSG calls for indirect fires and smoke on the enemy position (as necessary IAW OPORD/FRAGO).
3	Conduct tactical movement or assault through the objective, using these guidelines: • Employ all weapon systems to defeat the enemy in detail. • Lift and shift indirect fires as necessary. • Continue through the objective to occupy defensible terrain, or continue to move along assigned axis (IAW OPORD, FRAGO, or commander's guidance).
4	TCs send SITREPs (digital or voice) to platoon leader/PSG.
5	Platoon leader sends a SPOTREP/SITREP to the commander.
6	Consolidate and reorganize on the objective IAW OPORD/FRAGO.
7	Continue the platoon mission and/or prepare for subsequent actions.

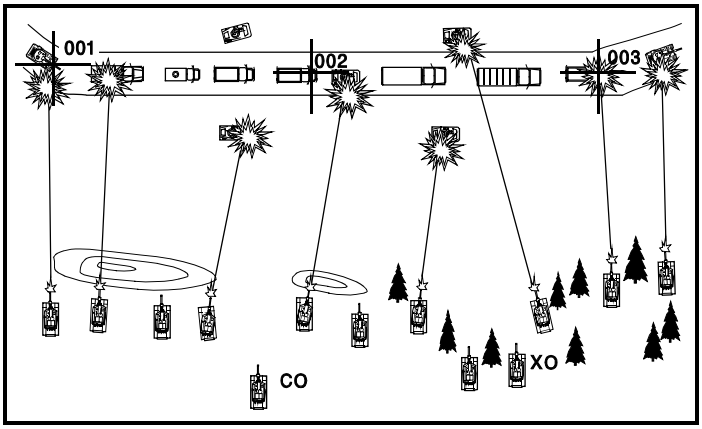


Scenarios for destroying an inferior enemy force.

Attack by fire

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in executing an attack by fire. This operation is shown in the illustration on the following page.

STEP	ACTION – Attack by fire
1	Based on METT-TC factors, platoon moves to an attack by fire position that incorporates weapon standoff and/or terrain that offers cover and concealment and firing positions IAW OPORD. Report “SET” to the commander.
2	Platoon leader designates sectors of fire, TRPs, and tentative firing positions (primary/alternate).
3	Conduct the attack by fire, taking these steps: • Establish fire patterns, rate of fire, and control method. • Use main gun and machine gun fire to suppress/destroy visible targets. • Call for and adjust indirect fire, if available.
4	Sustain attack by fire, maintaining continuous/consistent rate of fire on the enemy position, until all enemy elements are destroyed/suppressed or order to lift fires is received.
5	Move to alternate firing positions as necessary.
6	Platoon leader announces “CEASE FIRE” once the enemy is destroyed or on order of the commander.
7	Platoon leader sends SITREP to the commander.



Platoon takes part in company attack by fire against an enemy convoy.

Overwatch/support by fire

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in conducting overwatch/support by fire operations.

STEP	ACTION –Overwatch/support by fire
1	Based on METT-TC factors, platoon moves to a position that incorporates weapon standoff and/or terrain that offers cover/concealment and firing positions. Report “SET” to the commander.
2	Platoon leader designates sectors of fire, TRPs, tentative firing positions (primary/alternate), and method of control.
3	Crews scan sectors of fire designated by platoon leader and far target locator reports.
4	Use direct and indirect fires to suppress known and suspected enemy positions, adjusting fires as necessary and using the friendly (supported) unit’s movement and signals to prevent fratricide.
5	Move to alternate firing positions as necessary to avoid becoming decisively engaged.
6	Maintain situational awareness of friendly and enemy unit locations through visual contact and cross-talk.
7	Platoon leader orders “CEASE FIRE” and sends SITREP (digital or voice) to the commander.

BREACHING OPERATIONS

BREACH ELEMENTS

The elements in the breaching operations are the **support** force, the **breach** force, and the **assault** force. The tank platoon may be designated to execute breaching missions as any of the three elements.

SOSRA ACTIONS

At the most basic level, a breach includes actions summarized by the abbreviation SOSRA (suppress, obscure, secure, reduce, assault). The following table summarizes these actions.

STEP	ACTION – SOSRA breaching procedures
1	**Suppress** any enemy elements.
2	**Obscure** the breach operations from enemy observation.
3	**Secure** the breach site to prevent enemy interference.
4	**Reduce** the obstacle for the assault force and follow-on forces.
5	**Assault** to the far side of the obstacle and destroy enemy forces in the vicinity.

PLATOON OBSTACLE REDUCTION CODE WORD MATRIX

The following table summarizes the terms used during breaching operations to signal various actions and procedures of obstacle reduction.

CODE WORD	MEANING – Obstacle reduction codewords
KICKOFF	SBF/suppression/obscuration achieved.
FIRST DOWN	Ground personnel or plow tank at the point of penetration.
SECOND DOWN	Lane plowed.
THIRD DOWN	Lane proofed.
FOURTH DOWN	Far side secured.
TOUCHDOWN	Lane marked; rest of platoon continues to move.
TOUCHBACK	Lift or shift fires.

BREACHING CONSIDERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Complex obstacle

If the tank platoon encounters a complex obstacle beyond the capability of platoon assets, it remains at a support by fire position and prepares for a deliberate company breach. Refer to FM 3-20.15 (Chapter 5) for detailed procedures.

Point or hasty protective obstacle

If the platoon encounters a point or hasty protective obstacle, it executes the drill shown in the following table.

STEP	ACTION – Breach a point/hasty obstacle
1	Lead vehicle reports obstacle sighting and looks for a bypass. Other vehicles assume herringbone formation in best available covered and concealed positions. Report the location and composition of the obstacle and known/suspected enemy locations.
2	Determine whether the platoon is able to reduce the obstacle with organic assets. Choose either manual or mechanical reduction method. **NOTE:** The manual method will be used only when the platoon has no countermine equipment.
3	Identify the point of penetration (POP).
4	Alpha section occupies SBF positions, establishes sectors of fire, and reports “SET.”
5	Use the SOSRA procedures (described earlier). Alpha section **suppresses** the enemy and **obscures** the breach with smoke hand grenades, smoke pots, or mortar smoke. Tank 4 **secures** the POP. Tank 3 **reduces** the obstacle, and Alpha section **assaults** through the lane and establishes breach site security. **NOTE:** Normally, Tank 3 is assigned to conduct manual or mechanical obstacle reduction using crewmembers or its plow; Tank 4 is the backup. Upon identification of the POP, Alpha section provides overwatch and 360-degree security, and Bravo section secures and reduces the obstacle.
6	Bravo section sends SITREP (digital or voice) to Alpha section and prepares to maneuver through the obstacle.
7	Bravo section moves through the lane and sends SITREP when it reaches the far side.
8	Platoon leader/PSG sends SITREP (digital or voice) to the commander.

Manual/hasty reduction

The following table lists actions the platoon takes in conducting manual or hasty obstacle reduction.

STEP	ACTION – Manual/hasty obstacle reduction
1	Tank 3 TC gathers all four loaders (with their personal weapon and gear) and required equipment (including two grappling hooks with a 100-meter-long rope, two VS-17 panels, four pickets, four wire cutters, and M4/M16 rifle). **NOTE:** If possible, conduct hasty reduction mounted.
2	Tank 3 moves up to 50 meters from the POP. Driver throws grappling hook onto the wire obstacle, ties his end to the headlight guard, and buttons up hatches.
3	Using smoke hand grenades, smoke pots, VEESS, mortar rounds, or other types of screening, initiate **suppression** and **obscuration** on the far side of the obstacle. Platoon leader announces **"KICKOFF."** **NOTE:** VEESS is employed only on vehicles using DS-2 diesel fuel.
4	Use grappling hooks to snag the wire from a safe distance (75-100 meters), from the prone position, and behind cover. Pull the wire slowly at a 45-degree angle to detonate surface-laid or attached mines. (If pulling the wire with the tank, back away at a 45-degree angle.)
5	Once all mines are detonated, pull the wire close enough to cut it and **reduce** the obstacle. Platoon leader announces **"FIRST DOWN."** An 8-meter gap is needed to drive a tank through the obstacle.
6	Platoon leader or PSG announces **"TOUCHBACK"** to lift or shift all direct and indirect fires. Tank 3 TC and loaders return to tanks and report REDCON-1.

7	The lane entrance is opened. On order, Tank 3 plows through first and creates the lane to the far side of the obstacle. Platoon leader announces **"SECOND DOWN."** Tank 4 proofs the lane, and platoon leader announces **"THIRD DOWN."** **NOTE:** If using the mine plow, Tank 3 buttons up all hatches and traverses its gun over the side. It proceeds to the POP and drops its plow 50 meters in front of obstacle, ensuring 18 inches of spoil. Tank 3 plows through the obstacle to the far side and secures the far side of the obstacle from a hasty defensive firing position.
8	The Tank 4 loader marks the lane. He places two VS-17 panels on pickets, orange side out, at the lane entrance where plow marks start and a strand of engineer tape down the left side of the lane to the exit. For night recognition at the entrance, the loader uses two green chemlights taped to each orange VS-17 panel to form an arrow pointing to the lane. He places one green chemlight every 10 meters down the left side of the lane to the exit. He marks the exit with one green and one yellow chemlight taped to the top of the pickets on each side of lane. The loader remounts when Tank 4 stops at the far side.
9	Bravo section reports "SET" at the far side. Once Bravo section **secures** the far side (and **reduces** the obstacle as necessary), platoon leader announces **"FOURTH DOWN."** Alpha section **assaults** through the lane and prepares to continue the attack.
10	Platoon leader/PSG sends SITREP (digital or voice) to the commander.

DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – PREPARATION OF A BP

Preparation of the platoon BP begins after the platoon leader issues his OPORD to the platoon. Priorities of work are executed using the platoon timeline to assist in managing the defensive preparation based on the "defend NLT" time in the OPORD. Refer to page 24 for an illustration of a sample platoon timeline.

LEVELS OF PREPARATION

The company/troop commander assigns the level of preparation for the platoon BP. The platoon leader may raise the level of preparation, but may not lower it. The three levels of preparation (in ascending order of complexity and time/asset requirements) are the following:

- **Reconnoiter.** The platoon leader conducts the steps necessary for a ground reconnaissance (or a map reconnaissance, if less time is available) during the planning phase.
- **Prepare.** This level includes steps conducted during the planning and preparation phases for deliberate occupation of a BP.
- **Occupy.** This is the complete preparation of the BP from which the platoon will initially defend. Positions designated at this level have first priority for reconnaissance and preparation prior to the "defend NLT" time specified in the OPORD.

NOTE: If the situation/time permit, engineers can enhance platoon survivability by improving hide, turret-down, and hull-down positions. Each TC is responsible for ensuring that the location, orientation, and depth of the "hole" in the position are correct before the engineer departs for the next fighting position. The PSG is the "CINC dozer," in charge of bulldozer movement and operations.

BUILDING THE ENGAGEMENT AREA

The EA defines the location where the commander intends to kill the enemy force using direct/indirect fires. The platoon leader uses seven steps in building the EA, beginning with an evaluation of the factors of METT-TC and OCOKA. The following table lists the steps the platoon leader takes in building the EA.

STEP	ACTION – Building the engagement area
1	Conduct mission analysis and reconnaissance of the BP.
2	Identify the BP from the enemy side. Identify and mark indirect fire trigger lines.
3	Platoon leader establishes platoon sectors of fire, fire pattern/method of engagement, TRPs, trigger lines, and disengagement criteria.
4	Identify and mark obstacles/dead space to ensure indirect fire coverage.
5	Platoon leader/TCs drive the EA. Gunners develop range cards.
6	Coordinate with adjacent units and tie in supporting fires.
7	Platoon leader designates primary/supplementary fighting positions. TCs select alternate positions.
8	Position infantry as needed.
9	TCs verify that gunners can observe obstacles/dead space.
10	Complete platoon fire plan (digital) and compile infantry fire plan. Submit fire plans to the commander.

DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – HASTY OCCUPATION OF A BP

The platoon conducts hasty occupation in a variety of situations, such as the following:

- During a movement to contact.
- When assuming attack by fire positions.
- During counterattack missions.
- When tasked to destroy a moving enemy force.
- After disengaging and moving to a subsequent BP.
- In response to a FRAGO or change of mission.

As a minimum before occupying a hasty BP, the platoon leader must know the following:

- Location where the commander wants to kill the enemy.
- Designated TRPs that define the EA/sectors of fire.
- Tentative location of the BP.

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in conducting a hasty occupation of a BP.

STEP	ACTION – Hasty occupation of a BP
1	Platoon leader issues a FRAGO to the platoon, in person if time permits; otherwise, he uses the radio or digital system.
2	Orient toward last known or suspected enemy location.
3	Conduct prepare-to-fire checks.
4	Based on METT-TC, approach the BP from the flank or rear in a modified line formation; assume turret-down positions (LOWSKY).
5	Continue to develop the situation. Designate the following as time permits: • Platoon sectors of fire. • Covered and concealed routes into/out of and between primary, alternate, and supplementary fighting positions. • Trigger lines, engagement criteria, fire patterns, and method of control. • Disengagement criteria/plan, break point, and displacement routes to subsequent BPs.
6	On order, move to hull-down positions (TOPHAT), scan sectors of fire, and engage and destroy the enemy as necessary.
7	Report “ESTABLISHED” to the commander.
8	If time permits or the enemy has not reached the trigger line, the platoon leader may initiate the necessary steps for a deliberate occupation.

DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP

Deliberate occupation is conducted when the following conditions exist:

- Time is available.

  AND EITHER

- The enemy is not expected or has not been located within direct fire range.

  OR

- A friendly element forward of the BP provides security for the platoon.

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in conducting a deliberate occupation of a BP.

STEP	ACTION – Deliberate occupation of a BP
1	Occupy a hide position behind the BP.
2	Assume a formation that provides 360-degree security based on METT-TC and OCOKA factors; shut down engines simultaneously.
3	TCs dismount and meet at the platoon leader's tank for reconnaissance of the BP. Platoon leader prepares and briefs his gunner and OPs on actions in case contact occurs or the reconnaissance party does not return by specified time (actions are METT-TC dependent).
4	Platoon leader/PSG emplace mounted and/or dismounted OPs as necessary.
5	**Conduct leaders reconnaissance,** beginning from a vantage point on the ground overlooking the EA and looking toward the BP. **NOTE:** The platoon leader must ask the commander for permission to move in front of the BP.
6	Platoon leader assigns sectors of fire to the sections; marks artillery TRPs, decision points, and obstacles; and provides the platoon with a clear understanding of where he wants to kill the enemy.

7	Move back to the BP. Discuss the platoon fire plan, trigger lines, engagement/disengagement criteria/plan, and routes into and out of fighting positions and to subsequent BPs.
8	Coordinate with adjacent elements to establish overlapping fields of fires and to eliminate gaps and dead space between elements.
9	Remount vehicles, start engines with a short count, and on order, simultaneously move forward from hide positions to turret-down positions (LOWSKY), allowing the TCs to scan the EA using the caliber .50 sight or CITV (M1A2).
10	Platoon leader orders the platoon to **occupy** hull-down positions (TOPHAT), orient on the EA, and complete sketch cards.
11	TCs complete sketch cards and deliver a copy to the platoon leader, move vehicles individually into hide positions, and assume appropriate REDCON status. **NOTE:** Platoon leader may leave one vehicle as a mounted OP in the LOWSKY position to take advantage of the M1A2's CITV capabilities.
12	Platoon leader reports "ESTABLISHED" and forwards a platoon fire plan (digital or traditional) to the commander.
13	Platoon leader/PSG direct platoon to improve the BP as time/situation permit. Actions include the following: • Perform maintenance and prepare-to-fire checks. • Emplace M-8/M-22 chemical alarms, PEWS, decoys, camouflage, hot loop, and prestock ammunition/supplies. • Supervise engineers. • Clear fields of fire.
14	Platoon leader/PSG conduct rehearsals and boresighting (as time/situation permit) and ensure the platoon is prepared to defend by the "defend NLT" time specified in the OPORD.

FIRE SUPPORT

The platoon leader or PSG calls for all indirect fires through the company/troop FIST. Digital platoons send this request using the FBCB2 system; otherwise, a secure radio transmission is required.

MEANS OF INDIRECT FIRE

Mortars are the primary means of indirect fire support to the tank platoon; therefore, the FIST and the platoon leader/PSG must work together closely to plan and coordinate indirect fires.

IMPACT SENSING

During sensing for indirect fire impact, the platoon leader will be the primary observer and Tank 2 the alternate observer.

SIMPLIFIED CALL FOR FIRE

When time is critical, the platoon leader issues a simplified call for fire to call for immediate suppression (see the following example). The simplified call for fire contains three elements:

- Identification of observer.
- Warning order.
- Target location.

"E6T83, THIS IS D3W45, IMMEDIATE SUPPRESSION, STATIONARY TANKS IN THE OPEN, OVER. "

"D3W45, THIS IS E6T83, AUTHENTICATE ALPHA-GOLF-TANGO, OVER."

"I AUTHENTICATE MIKE, OUT."

STANDARD CALL FOR FIRE

The platoon leader uses a standard call for fire in all situations except immediate suppression. It contains six elements sent in three transmissions. Refer to the following chart showing how elements are grouped for transmission. An example is also shown on the following page.

NOTE: In units equipped with FBCB2, a call for fire message can be included in the digital Blue-1 report.

TRANS-MISSION	ELEMENT	CONTENT
First	Identification Warning order	Call signs Type of mission, method of target location, any request for increased volume of fire
Second	Target location	Grid, shift from a known point, or polar plot method
Third	Target description Method of engagement Method of fire and control	Verbal "picture" of what the observer sees Recommendations for types of ammunition, sheaves, and trajectory "AT MY COMMAND"; "TIME ON TARGET"; "REQUEST SPLASH" (If no method of fire control is desired, this element may be deleted)

"E6T83, THIS IS D3W45, FIRE FOR EFFECT, OVER." (First transmission includes identification of observer and warning order.)

"GRID ES 317445, OVER." (Second transmission includes target location.)

"4 TANKS AND 3 BMPS STATIONARY IN THE OPEN, DPICM IN EFFECT, OVER." (Third transmission includes target description, method of engagement, and method of fire and control.)

"D3W45 THIS IS E6T83, AUTHENTICATE ALPHA-GOLF-ECHO, OVER."

"I AUTHENTICATE DELTA, OUT."

AIR DEFENSE

The tank platoon must be able to protect itself from enemy aircraft attacks at all times. It uses a variety of means, including the following:

- Local air defense warnings.
- Use of battle drills and SPOTREPs.
- Passive air defense measures.
- Active air defense measures, including effective use of the air defense weapon control status.

LOCAL AIR DEFENSE WARNING

The three local air defense warning levels are the following:

- **DYNAMITE.** Aircraft are inbound or attacking locally now.
- **LOOKOUT.** Aircraft are in the area but not threatening, and there is time to react.
- **SNOWMAN.** There are no aircraft posing a threat at this time.

REPORTING

Report all enemy air activity using the SPOTREP format. (**NOTE:** Digitally equipped platoons use their digital systems to send SPOTREPs.)

PASSIVE AIR DEFENSE

There are two categories of passive air defense measures:

- Attack avoidance (actions taken to prevent the enemy from detecting the platoon).
- Damage-limiting measures (actions taken to limit or reduce the effects of enemy munitions).

ACTIVE AIR DEFENSE

The platoon uses massed, coordinated volume of fire, directed at an aim point, to destroy enemy aircraft. The decision to engage is based on the situation and the capabilities of the platoon's organic weapon systems; the platoon leader must weigh these factors against the capabilities and vulnerability of the attacking aircraft. Depending on the type of attacking aircraft, the platoon may use either machine gun or main gun fire.

AIR DEFENSE WEAPON CONTROL STATUS

The three levels of weapon control status are the following:

- **WEAPONS FREE.** Fire at any air target not positively identified as friendly.
- **WEAPONS TIGHT.** Fire only at air targets positively identified as hostile IAW hostile criteria.
- **WEAPONS HOLD.** Do not fire except in self-defense or on order.

AIR ATTACK ALARMS AND SIGNALS

The platoon uses the following guidelines and procedures for issuing alarms and signals in an air attack.

Radio/vocal

The alarm is given as “CONTACT, BANDITS, (cardinal direction).” Example: “CONTACT, BANDIT, EAST, OUT.”

Visual

Use the hand-and-arm signal for an air attack. Refer to the skill level 1 soldier’s manual for MOS 19K (STP 17-19K1-SM).

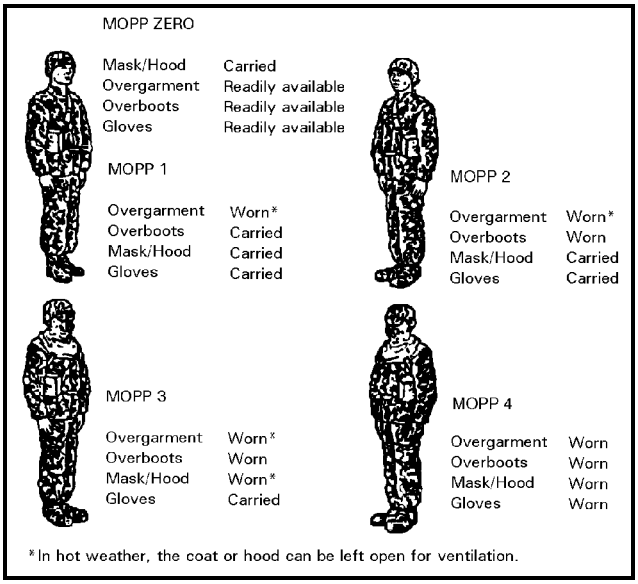
NBC OPERATIONS

ORGANIZATION FOR COMBAT

As the platoon’s NBC tank, Tank 2 handles all matters pertaining to NBC operations. It carries the M256 detector kit box and the chemical agent alarm with replacement batteries, as well as an IM-93 dosimeter, IM-174 radiacmeter, and a CAM. Tank 2 also monitors radiation exposure when the platoon enters a nuclear contaminated area.

MOPP LEVELS

The platoon leader can increase the MOPP level for his platoon when required by the tactical situation. MOPP equipment is used as shown in the following illustration.



MOPP levels and equipment.

NBC ALARMS AND SIGNALS

The platoon uses the following guidelines and procedures for issuing alarms and signals in NBC situations.

Chemical attack

Radio/vocal

The alarm is given as “GAS, GAS, GAS.”

Visual

Put on the protective mask, and use the hand-and-arm signal for an NBC attack. For more information, refer to the skill level 1 soldier’s manual for MOS 19K (STP 17-19K1-SM).

Audible

The alarm is rapid beating of metal on metal or sounding of the M8 alarm horn.

Digital

The FBCB2 tactical display will display a chemical icon to show the location of the attack.

Nuclear attack

Radio/vocal

The alarm is given as “FALLOUT, FALLOUT, FALLOUT.”

Visual

Use the hand-and-arm signal for an NBC attack. For more information, refer to the skill level 1 soldier's manual for MOS 19K (STP 17-19K1-SM).

Audible

The alarm is rapid beating of metal on metal.

Digital

The FBCB2 tactical display will display a chemical icon to show the location of the attack.

“ALL CLEAR” signal

Radio/vocal

The signal is given as “ALL CLEAR.” The “ALL CLEAR” signal must be authenticated in all cases when given over a nonsecure radio.

Visual

The signal is unmasking by an authorized individual.

AUTOMATIC MASKING PROCEDURES

Tank crewmen will don their protective masks without further direction under the following conditions:

- Indirect fires/smoke rounds are sighted or reported.
- The tank’s on-board NBC warning activates.

- They are sprayed by overflying aircraft.
- The M-8/M-22 alarm is activated.
- A suspicious odor, liquid, or dust is detected, or unexplained dead wildlife is sighted.
- The platoon prepares to enter a suspected contaminated area.
- The commander or platoon leader orders masking.
- Unexplained symptoms appear, such as runny nose, choking, tightness of chest, or dimming of vision.

UNMASKING PROCEDURES

Soldiers should unmask as soon as possible except when a live biological or toxin attack is expected. Permission to unmask may be given only by the commander through the platoon leader. When he receives a message to assume "ALL CLEAR" status, the platoon leader must always require authentication unless he has made face-to-face contact with the commander. Use the following procedures to determine if unmasking is safe.

Unmasking with the M256 kit

If an M256/M256A1 detector kit is available, use it to supplement the unmasking procedures. The kit does not detect all agents; therefore, proper unmasking procedures, which take approximately 15 minutes, must still be used. The following chart lists unmasking steps with the kit.

STEP	ACTION – Unmasking with M256 kit
1	Check the kit to confirm the results are negative.
2	Move one or two soldiers to a shady area.
3	Unmask for 5 minutes.
4	Clear and reseal masks.
5	Observe the soldiers for 10 minutes.
6	If no symptoms, report results to commander and request “ALL CLEAR.”
7	Watch for delayed symptoms.

Unmasking without the M256 kit

If an M256/M256A1 kit is not available, the unmasking procedures take approximately 35 minutes. When a reasonable amount of time has passed after the attack, find a shady area and use M8 paper to check the area for possible liquid contamination. The following chart lists unmasking steps without the kit.

STEP	ACTION – Unmasking without M256 kit
1	Move soldiers to shady area.
2	Take a deep breath and hold it.
3	Break the mask seal and keep eyes open for 15 seconds.
4	Clear and reseal masks.
5	Observe the soldiers for 10 minutes.
6	If no symptoms appear, break seal and take 2 or 3 breaths.
7	Clear and reseal masks.
8	Observe the soldiers for 10 minutes.
9	If no symptoms appear, unmask for 5 minutes and remask.
10	If no symptoms appear after 10 minutes, report results to commander and request “ALL CLEAR.”
11	Watch for delayed symptoms.

CROSSING A CONTAMINATED AREA

Preparations for the crossing

The following chart lists steps the platoon takes in preparing to cross an NBC contaminated area.

STEP	ACTION – Preparations for crossing
1	Place 6-to-12-inch strips of M9 paper on the caliber .50 mount, the headlight guards, and the loader's M240 mount. Ensure all M9 paper strips can be seen while buttoned up.
2	Stow any external equipment inside tanks or cover it with a tarp.
3	Assume MOPP 4 approximately 500 meters (terrain/mission dependent) from entering the contaminated area.
4	Place tank in combat configuration to prevent chemical agents from entering crew compartment.
5	Close all hatches and turn on overpressure protection system.

Crossing a chemical/biological contaminated area

The following chart lists steps the platoon takes in crossing an area in which chemical or biological agents are expected or have been detected.

STEP	ACTION – Crossing chemical/biological area
1	Maintain the proper interval (125 meters) and speed (5 mph). **NOTE:** For limited visibility operations, reduce the interval to 50 meters.
2	Avoid brushing trees or branches or driving through puddles.
3	After clearing the area, check for contamination.
4	Observe crewmembers for signs of chemical poisoning.
5	Platoon leader reports to commander when the crossing is complete, including personnel status.

Crossing a nuclear contaminated area

The following chart lists steps the platoon takes in crossing an area in which nuclear contamination has been detected.

STEP	ACTION – Crossing a nuclear area
1	Battle-carry main gun ammunition, button up hatches, and turn on the overpressure system.
2	Stow all external equipment inside or cover it with a tarp.
3	Limit speed and interval to reduce contaminated dust; reduce distance in limited visibility.
4	Use the quickest and most direct route.
5	NBC tank takes dose rate readings every 15 minutes from a short halt and reports results to the platoon leader.
6	After clearing the area, check crewmembers for signs of contamination and render first aid.
7	Perform immediate decontamination of personnel and equipment.
8	Perform unmasking procedures when ordered.
9	Replace contaminated filters as necessary.
10	Platoon leader reports to commander when crossing is complete, including personnel status.

RESPONDING TO AN ARTILLERY- OR AIR-DELIVERED CHEMICAL AGENT

The following table lists steps the platoon takes to check for and respond to contamination after an artillery or air attack.

STEP	ACTION – Responding to an artillery/air attack
1	Once the attack has ended, report status, account for all personnel, and direct all crews continue to perform their missions.
2	Platoon leader directs the NBC tank (normally Tank 2) to open hatches, but to remain in MOPP 4.
3	Chemical detection teams check for contamination using the M256 kit and M8 paper and report results.
4	If no contamination is found, the platoon leader takes the following actions: • Recommend unmasking procedures when he submits the report to the commander. • When he receives permission, direct the NBC tank crew to conduct proper unmasking procedures and report the results.
5	If results of unmasking are positive, the platoon leader takes the following actions: • Direct treatment of casualties. • Report results to the commander.
6	If unmasking results are negative, report results to the commander and recommend “ALL CLEAR.”
7	When “ALL CLEAR” is signaled, platoon unmasks and continues the mission.

DECONTAMINATION

The following table lists actions the platoon takes when decontamination is necessary. Refer to FM 3-20.15 (Appendix E) for detailed information on immediate, operational, and thorough decontamination procedures.

STEP	ACTION – Decontamination procedures
1	Begin immediate decontamination of skin and/or eyes (personal decontamination) within one minute of contamination exposure IAW unit SOP. **NOTE:** Each soldier must have an M291 decontamination kit for immediate decontamination.
2	Perform immediate decontamination of equipment when personal decontamination is completed. **NOTE:** Each vehicle must carry two M292 decontamination kits for immediate decontamination. Priority for equipment decontamination is crew operating controls, followed by ammunition storage racks, sights, hatches, and engine access covers.
3	After completing the immediate decontamination procedures, perform operator's spraydown with the M13 decontamination apparatus (DAP). **NOTE:** Spraydown focuses on removing/neutralizing contaminants on surfaces that operators must touch frequently, such as hatch handles, operator controls, steering mechanisms, engine covers, and tools.
4	For radiological decontamination, crewmen brush or scrape contamination away with on-hand equipment or flush contamination with water and wipe it away.

CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION

CONSOLIDATION IN THE OFFENSE

The following table lists basic steps the platoon takes to conduct consolidation following offensive operations.

STEP	ACTION – Consolidation in the offense
1	Eliminate enemy elements and secure EPWs.
2	Occupy/reestablish defensible hasty positions as designated in the OPORD/FRAGO and inform the commander of the new positions.
3	Tanks orient main guns toward last known enemy position.
4	Assign sectors of fire to ensure 360-degree security.
5	Coordinate with adjacent units to prepare for counterattack.
6	Report status to the commander.

CONSOLIDATION IN THE DEFENSE

The following table lists basic steps the platoon takes to conduct consolidation following defensive operations.

STEP	ACTION – Consolidation in the defense
1	Eliminate enemy resistance IAW commander's intent.
2	Reestablish new sectors of fire and security.
3	TCs send digital status reports to PSG.
4	Secure EPWs.
5	TCs supervise first aid for wounded crewmen.
6	Repair and/or replace obstacles.
7	Improve positions and establish priorities of work.
8	Prepare for continued enemy attacks.
9	PSG sends digital roll-up report/request to XO or 1SG.

REORGANIZATION

Offensive and defensive reorganization procedures are substantially the same. Each leader in the platoon has specific responsibilities as outlined in this discussion.

Platoon leader

The platoon leader takes the reorganization actions listed in the following table.

STEP	ACTION – Platoon leader reoganization responsibilities
1	Forward a consolidated SITREP (voice or digital) to the commander.
2	Redistribute crewmen; reestablish platoon chain of command.
3	Reestablish communications with elements that are out of contact.

Platoon sergeant

The PSG takes the reorganization actions listed in the following table.

STEP	ACTION – PSG reorganization responsibilities
1	Compile SITREPs from the TCs and submit a rollup/consolidated SITREP to the 1SG (voice) and the platoon leader (voice, digital, or messenger).
2	Oversee consolidation and evacuation of WIAs.
3	Consolidate KIA remains and coordinate with the 1SG for evacuation.
4	Direct cross-leveling of supplies within the platoon.
5	Direct cross-leveling of ammunition within the platoon.
6	Coordinate movement of EPWs to the EPW collection point.
7	Submit yellow and red reports to the 1SG.

Tank commanders

TCs take the reorganization actions listed in the following table.

STEP	ACTION – TC reorganization responsibilities
1	Reload weapons and redistribute ammunition.
2	Provide first aid to WIAs, move them to a covered position, and request evacuation.
3	Forward a SITREP to the PSG.
4	Conduct essential maintenance.
5	Continue to improve the position.

Drivers

Drivers take the reorganization actions listed in the following table.

STEP	ACTION – Driver reoganization responsibilities
1	Conduct PMCS of hull and suspension.
2	Conduct PMCS of engine.

NOTE: During PMCS, at least one platoon vehicle must provide local security for those conducting maintenance.

Loaders

Loaders take the reorganization actions listed in the following table.

STEP	ACTION – Loader reoganization responsibilities
1	Reload the ammunition ready rack to full capacity.
2	Relink the ready ammunition for the coaxial machine gun to full capacity.
3	Inspect, resecure, and adjust turret load plan as necessary.